

**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the work of the Child Advocates Network of volunteer Guardians ad Litem and Court Appointed Special Advocates.

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Crawford

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the work of the Child Advocates Network of volunteer Guardians ad Litem and Court Appointed Special Advocates.

*Whereas, The Child Advocates Network is composed of Guardian ad Litem and Court Appointed Special Advocate programs from 72 of Indiana's 92 counties;*

*Whereas, GAL/CASA programs recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children in Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and Termination of Parental Rights cases;*

*Whereas, GAL/CASA volunteers spend substantial time with children in foster care to ascertain what is in the child's best interests in court cases and make recommendations to the courts about the child's needs and desires;*

*Whereas, GAL/CASA volunteers also serve as positive role models for children who may not otherwise have consistent, stable and meaningful relationships with adults in their lives;*

*Whereas, GAL/CASA volunteers also ensure that services are offered and provided to children involved in the court system who otherwise might not receive needed services;*



*Whereas, GAL/CASA volunteers monitor the safety, well-being and permanence of children while they are wards of the court in child abuse and neglect cases;*

*Whereas, GAL/CASA volunteers are the only voice for abused and neglected children in child abuse and neglect and termination of parental rights cases;*

*Whereas, GAL/CASA volunteers donate over half a million hours advocating for Indiana's children each year, saving the State of Indiana at least \$25,000,000 each year; and,*

*Whereas, Indiana has over 3,000 GAL/CASA volunteers who provided a voice for 18,613 children in child abuse and neglect cases and for 2,568 children in termination of parental rights cases in 2010: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives  
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,  
the Senate concurring:*

- 1       SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
- 2       commends and sincerely thanks the volunteers who donate their time
- 3       and attention to advocate for abused and neglected children in Indiana
- 4       communities, recognizing that such work is critical to the success and
- 5       well-being of many disadvantaged and struggling children and their
- 6       families across Indiana.
- 7       SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 8       Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the State Office of
- 9       GAL/CASA, which is part of State Court Administration, a division of
- 10      the Indiana Supreme Court.

